This past year has been a great year for Otterbein’s Equine Science program. Not only did we move into a beautiful new facility, but we also acquired several wonderful new horses. Each and every one, old and new, has something amazing to offer our riders. Our Georgia friends supplied us with the new additions, Moose, Ted, and Kermit. Moose is a hunter extraordinaire! He’s like sitting on a machine (and I mean that in a very good way) teaching our riders about pace and distance, never getting flustered by a mistake. Ted, our gentle-giant-pinto, can carry our beginners safely around the arena, but still gives our more advanced riders a run for their money out in the field. Kermit is definitely a barn favorite. He has so much personality—and a great sense of humor. We were also extremely fortunate to add Mason to our herd. This sweet jumper has already travelled to North Carolina with our team, and has taken home dozens of ribbons from local shows. One of our local donors brought us Vegas, the cute paint with perfect lead changes. Although he came to us as a hunter, he was a star at the Intercollegiate Dressage Show in October. Regal was donated by a current student in our program. His name describes him perfectly! This Clydesdale cross is amazingly elegant and handsome. He will be eventing with our riders this spring. LaBamba arrived from Maryland soon after our move. This horse has talent and looks. His freshman partner has grown very fond of his beauty and curious personality. Pedro joined us this fall from Kentucky. He is a schoolmaster through and through. It’s not every day that we get an Intermediare dressage horse donated to the program, especially one that is bombproof and fancy! Just a few short weeks ago, Kensington joined our crew. He is an older gentleman that has already shown many riders around the hunter and jumper arenas and will continue to do so with us until he is ready to retire. We are so fortunate to have such amazing horses that teach our students and enrich our lives. Thanks donors, we couldn’t do it without you!
Student Spotlight

A Spring Opportunity
Allison Basye

This spring, I had the opportunity to do a three-week internship with the Carolina Horse Park (CHP) near Southern Pines, NC. The Park puts on several horse shows throughout the year. I was able to help with two of their biggest shows. The first was an eventing show, with close to 400 competitors. These competitors included top names in the equine industry such as Karen O’Connor and Buck Davidson. The second show was a steeplechase, the 58th running of the Stoneybrook Steeplechase – an event many in the surrounding areas looked forward to year after year.

During the first week, I helped prepare for the eventing show. I knew that a show required a lot of work, but when put behind the scenes of a show, it amazed me just how much work had to be done. Show packets had to be stuffed, footing on the cross country course had to be maintained, jumping and cross country courses had to be designed, programs and maps had to be printed, paperwork and payments had to be tracked, and judges had to be gathered for every dressage ring and the cross country jumps. In addition, technical delegates, scribes, timers, ring stewards, scorers, awards crew, a barn manager, and others helped make the show successful.

The second show I worked, the steeplechase, was very different. While the eventing show was catered towards competitors, the steeplechase was catered towards spectators. More attention was given to entertainment, food, vendors, sponsors, and tailgating. I was in charge of booking sales and assigning tailgating spots for this event. At first I thought this might not keep me very busy, but it proved to be a full-time job, especially the day before the steeplechase. I also helped with the gala the night before race day. Several people enjoyed dinner, drinks, gambling (with fake money), a silent auction, a live band, and dancing at a local country club. The race day was fun, and you could feel the excitement in the air. Volunteers manned the will-call and information booths, directed traffic, took tickets, and sold programs.

Attendees could watch the races from almost anywhere around the track. For turf club members, owners, trainers, riders, and CHP staff, a tower at the finish line gave a good view of the track. It was a good end to my internship at the Carolina Horse Park.

Through this opportunity, I learned more than I expected. In addition to learning about the work involved in running shows, I learned more about the sports of eventing and steeplechasing. Perhaps the most relevant to me was just learning more about this business as a possible career choice. I know I will use what I’ve gained through this experience when I make decisions about my future.

Freshman Excels at Mounted Games

Otterbein freshman Laura Crowl appears to be like many of her classmates, a moderately successful event rider. Watching her jumping lessons with Kari on "Z" her homebred gelding provides no contradiction to this assumption. Dressage lessons with her buckskin mare Nicci, while not impressive to the serious dressage student, likewise seem pretty tame. However, as everyone knows, things are not always as they seem. At mounted games competitions Nicci’s explosive speed, the agility bred in her from a royal reining pedigree and the discipline from long hours of dressage put Laura and Nicci at the top in any company.

Laura’s obsession with the sport of mounted games has taken her around the globe, given her opportunities and created friendships unusual for a kid from a small town in Ohio. In 2007 Laura represented the United States in the USPC games competition that followed a two week exchange with riders from England, Australia, Ireland and Canada. The USPC team won for the first time in 13 years.

In 2008 Laura traveled to the World Championship in Sydney Australia as a member of Team USA. That week Laura dislocated her shoulder not once, but twice. Once she over vaulted her mount, got up, caught the little mare and finished the race. Adrenaline is a powerful analgesic. The shoulder came out again when her pony fell on top of her while she was attempting to pick up a ball off the ground while mounted (yes, it is possible). Both times Laura refused a trip to the hospital and the pain killing drugs offered, but instead had the shoulder put back in place on a table in the dining hall. The second dislocation effectively put an end to her hopes of contributing to the team, which managed a disappointing second in the "B" final. Laura attended the awards bash in a blue formal sporting matching bruises, blue vet wrap and a sling fashioned from an American flag bandana. The parent of a British competitor said he often tells the story of dislocating his shoulder saying he "screamed like a little girl". He now knows little girls don’t scream.

(continued on next page)
Dr. Sheri Birmingham recently had her latest research manuscript accepted for publication in the American Association of Equine Practitioner's journal, Equine Veterinary Education. "Qualitative assessment of corticosteroid cervical articular facet injection in symptomatic horses" was a collaborative research project between Dr. Birmingham, Dr. Steve Reed, from Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital, Dr. John Mattoon, from Washington State University and Dr. William Saville, from The Ohio State University. This study, which looks at the use of corticosteroid injections in horses with mild neurological deficits, will continue as a prospective study at Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital in Lexington, Kentucky.

Dr. Birmingham is also leading student-based research projects, which include: the investigation of a possible physiological connection between the human and horse during equine assisted therapy, the comparison of diets between hind-gut fermenters, and the comparison between commonly used non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs and their affect on the liver. These projects allow students to work with professionals within the veterinary community, as well as students from other majors and departments within the college.

Everyone has seen those shows on TV – shows that display miraculous rescues of horses from raging rivers, deep wells, and trailer accidents. The action is inspiring and the rescues are amazing. What you don’t see is the after affects of this rescues; close review of these television cases reveals horses that have incurred serious injuries from being rescued that sometimes have even led to death. Did the horse really need to be picked up by a helicopter? Was it safe to pull the horse out of the bog using only a rope attached to its halter? Was it necessary to have that many people? The emotional and physical stress that is placed upon a large animal during an emergency rescue is sometimes too great of an obstacle for that animal to recover from. This spring semester on April 9 & 10, 2010 Otterbein College will be hosting a Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue clinic at the new Center for Equine Studies to educate in the proper and safe techniques for animal rescues. Heading the clinic will be Dr. Rebecca Gimenez, PhD and major in the signal corps, U.S. Army Reserves. Dr. Gimenez has a B.S. in Biology from Wofford College and a PH.D. in Animal Physiology from Clemson University. Additionally, she is a Logistics Officer for Veterinary Medical Assistance Team (VMAT-2), has published her first book on Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue through Wiley-Blackwell in 2008 in collaboration with six other authors including her fellow primary TLAER instructor Dr. Tomas Gimenez. She has become an internationally sought speaker and subject matter expert on large animal emergency rescue.

During emergency rescues, it is imperative for veterinarians, fire and emergency rescue personnel, and citizens to work together in order to have a truly successful and safe rescue mission. The clinic is a two day (fourteen hour) intensive course. For updated information in the coming months, maps, and registration information please visit www.otterbein.edu/TLAER.

Clinic Opportunities

TLAER Clinic Comes to Otterbein in April
Written by: Jenna Letzter

2009 saw Laura’s attention briefly shift back to eventing. A second place finish on her thoroughbred gelding Double D’Or at the USPC East Coast Championship at Preliminary helped her three-rider team nail the inaugural Grand Prix award and an all expense paid trip to Ireland. Trips to the Dublin horse show, riding on the beach, cross country jumping on fabulous Irish horses including the infamous Irish banks at the farm known as the “kindergarten of event horses” would have been the high point of the summer for many. Not for Miss Crowl. She also traveled to Great Britain twice last summer to compete in mounted games. Each time her team finished considerably better than expected.

Laura’s bull rider toughness and willingness to take chances others shun has earned her a reputation as “the crazy American”. In a sport dominated by the Brits she has also earned invitations to play for other teams in 2010. If she can stay in one piece (not a given, to be sure) you may see her at the WEG where Mounted Games will be a demo sport. The buckskin blur will be Nicci.
Alum is RVT at Louisiana State University

Ashley Boyce ’09

I graduated from Otterbein/ CSCC in March ’09 and started at working at LSU School of Veterinary Medicine in June ’09. I am the night shift equine technician so I help students do their evening treatments, help with procedures that are taking place and discharge and admit patients.

When everyone has left for the night I do the night treatments and handle any emergencies that come to the hospital. It doesn’t seem like a lot, but trust me, it is. The majority of emergencies I deal with are colics, but I have received lacerations, gunshots, trauma via car, boat, and bull, and a few other things such as degloving injuries, fungal lesions, and eye trauma.

I do a variety of things at the hospital such as clean wounds, wrap legs/hocks/tail/head, put in catheters, perform nasogastric intubation and gastric reflux, administer medications in all routes and mix medications. I also hold horses for procedures, set up for procedures, and knock down horses for anesthesia. I am the only technician working at night so I have learned to be in 4 different places at once as well as multitask, as I rarely get to finish a task before someone needs help with something else. I have also had to learn how to handle more than one emergency at the same time, as there have been multiple occasions where I had 3 or more emergencies... simultaneously. In addition to my equine patients I also tend to any farm animals that need special care as well as farm animal emergencies.

Despite the craziness that each day brings I absolutely love my job. I love teaching my students, and the clinicians and technicians I work with are absolutely amazing. I have learned so much about simple and complex procedures, and I try to sit in on the students’ patient information sessions as this is one of the best places to learn things about the horse and medical practices in general. I work with mostly Thoroughbred racehorses, but I also see a lot of Quarter Horses, Arabians, and warmbloods. These horses definitely keep me on my toes, so listen to and learn every restraint and safety technique being taught because I use them every day, and they work!

Otterbein Alum Takes her Veterinary Knowledge Abroad

Kim Keeton, DVM ’01

Otterbein Alumni, Kim Keeton DVM, is broadening her horizons. She is setting out on a year long trek to further her veterinary expertise and obtain valuable international riding experience. Kim, along with her Intermediate level event horse and her dog, are headed to the South Cotswolds region of the United Kingdom. Her plans include working with the B & W Equine Group as one of their 27 practicing vets. She is looking forward to being able to work in a totally different setting, with the newest technology in imaging modalities and state of the art facilities. Some of which include: digital radiographs, ultrasound, color digital endoscopy, a lameness center, and hospital haul-in facility for AI, stallion collection/freezing, and a surgery suite. She is also looking forward to chasing her riding dreams by competing in the most competitive environment, against some of the world’s best event riders. The equine science program wishes her safe travels and is proud of her many accomplishments.

Alum Continues Research at Cornell

Heather Holl ’09

I am now going to Cornell University for my PhD in either Animal Science or Animal Breeding and Genetics. My adviser is an equine geneticist who graduated from the University of Kentucky. This semester, I took two classes and worked as a teaching assistant for the Cornell Horses class.

I have also started working in the lab with DNA extractions from skin samples and looking at some simple gene expressions. Currently, I’ve been getting my first experience with grant proposal writing for a gene mapping project for one of the pinto patterns. A previous student in the lab found an associated region, so I’ve started sequencing a candidate gene.

Cornell is located in Ithaca in upstate New York in the finger lakes region. It’s a beautiful area and has a great bus system. I’m looking forward to the winter - we already had snow in October, but it’ll be fun to see how my dogs react.
Volunteer of the Year

Roland “Mick” Kinsley

As long as I can remember, I have been fascinated with horses. As a kid, I devoured every one of the books about the “Black Stallion.” The beauty and majesty of their movement amazes me every time I see them in a field or paddock. Unfortunately, the one thing Santa never left from my annual list was a pony. Until the last few years, I have had limited opportunities to be around horses. About three years ago, my wife and I started going on trail rides in the Rockies each summer. I wanted more and so last year we took western riding lessons for about seven months. This caused me to want to know more about the day to day care of horses.

When I saw the construction begin on the new Otterbein Equine Facility, I inquired about the possibility of becoming a volunteer. My goal was to learn as much as I could about horses. This past March I began volunteering every Saturday morning. The experience has been very positive from the start. Andy Allinson, Head of Volunteers, took me under his wing and started explaining the Otterbein way of caring for horses. He made sure that I was exposed to a variety of tasks such as cleaning stalls, watering, feeding grain and hay, grooming, and turning out horses to the paddocks and fields. Andy and all of the employees at the barn have been fantastic to work with. I have had a lot of questions and everyone has been very positive and willing to explain things to me. I came to be around horses, but the bonus for me has been the camaraderie with the people.

There have been a number of highlights for me over the past nine months. The volunteer program has grown and it has been fun to watch individuals who were very timid around horses grow in their confidence. The more I work around the horses, the more I get to know about their individual personalities. I suppose everyone has a favorite and mine is Jet. He was on stall rest when I started and having been confined due to an injury. I was sympathetic to his situation. Jet is like a three year old kid. He gets into everything and I love being around him. He is not quite a stallion, but he is black and a lot of fun.

Nine months ago, I could never have seen myself ever wanting to ride English, but after watching the coordination, cooperation, and control between horse and rider, I have taken several English lessons. It has been a real learning experience. I began volunteering to learn more about horses and the one thing I have learned most is how much more I have to learn. It has been fun.

Visiting Instructors

Autumn quarter 2009, Otterbein welcomed several visiting instructors. Highlighted below are brother/sister Greg and Krystin Schmid.

Greg Schmid

Greg was born and raised in Canada, and moved to Granville, Ohio in the fall of 1998. During his years at Granville Middle and High School he was a member of Hunter’s Run Pony Club and then later Stillwater Pony Club. While in Pony Club he competed in many rallies and worked his way up the rating system to eventually achieve an A-rating in August of 2005. In September of 2005 he started at Otterbein College in the Equine Science Department as a Pre-Vet major, and competed on all three equestrian teams. He did well on the IHSA team and had the opportunity to compete his own horse in the Preliminary division at recognized USEA competitions. He also competed the Otterbein horse, Cavanaugh Park “Parker”, in the Novice division with the Eventing team. His IDA achievements include being a two time First Level Regional Champion, as well as winning the First Level Individual National Championships in 2009. Since graduating from Otterbein in June of 2009, he has started at The Ohio State University’s College of Veterinary Medicine and will hopefully graduate in 2013 with his DVM.

Krystin Schmid

Krystin has an extensive background in the horse industry and has been riding most of her life. Growing up she was an active participant in the United States Pony Club and graduated the organization as an A rated member. Krystin has successfully competed through the Preliminary level at USEA recognized horse trials and shown through the Second level at USDF recognized shows. Outside of her riding accomplishments, Krystin has also graduated from OSU in 2008 with a degree in civil engineering and is currently working on her masters in architecture.
Equestrian Team News

**Otterbein Riders Compete at the ANRC**

The American National Riding Commission, Inc. (ANRC) was established in 2006 to continue the goals and activities of the Affiliated National Riding Commission, which existed as part of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (AAHPERD) for more than 60 years. The original purpose was to initiate a standardized method to educate riders in hunt seat equitation and to create a "Rider Certification" system to assess riding ability and of riding theory. ANRC continues to support these goals with competitions, clinics, and distribution of educational materials.

ANRC’s educational system is based on the teachings of Captain Vladimir Littauer, a Russian who came to the United States in the thirties and established a riding school. His progressive riding system has influenced many professional riders and trainers, including Jane Dillon, George Morris, Joe Fargis, Lendon Gray, Pam Baker and Bernie Traurig.

The overall goal of the ANRC is to promote a contemporary, systematic approach to riding, training, and teaching that is appropriate for horses as well as riders at various stages of learning. Emphasis is placed on developing a cooperative effort between horse and rider, and ultimately achieving a quality level of performance. These objectives are specifically aimed towards riders, trainers, or instructors who want to improve equitation skills, teaching skills, gain a better understanding of riding theory, and want to improve the performance of a field hunter, show hunter, jumper, or pleasure horse.

Each year the ANRC puts on a National Intercollegiate competition. It is conducted at the intermediate level and hosted by one of the participating colleges or universities. Two or three riders from each school compete as a team, or as individual riders. On the first day the competition consists of an intermediate program ride on contact using the 1-19 USEF tests that the competitors memorize. On the second day there is an outdoor course 3’ in height and a 3’ hunter seat equitation course. All of the courses may be schooled on Thursday and Friday and all are judged on equitation.

Last year Otterbein sent 3 riders and horses to this prestigious championship: Sophomore Lauren Kopas, and Freshmen Annie Garrett and Tenley Struhs. The team travelled all the way to St. Andrews College in North Carolina for the 3 day competition. Otterbein received 7th place, had a wonderful time, learned a lot, and are excited to go again in 2010!
**Dressage Team News**

The 2008-2009 school year was a great success for the Otterbein Dressage Team. A fifth place team finish at the Intercollegiate Dressage Association National Championships was a tremendous accomplishment. The successes continued at Nationals during the individual competition. Macy Drinkhouse and Colleen Grant both rode in the introductory level. Macy finished fifth place overall and Colleen won the division. She received the Mary Beth McLean Perpetual Trophy and was the National champion of the Introductory Level. Greg Schmid also brought home top honors as both the High Point Rider and the First Level National Championship. He received the Trip Harding Memorial trophy. Of the four individual divisions at the IDA championships, Otterbein brought home two national champions!

The 2009-2010 school year has continued the team’s winning ways. In the middle of October we hosted both the first show of our regions IDA show season and the first show ever at the new facility. The show went well even with Old Man Winter trying to creep in early with the mercury dipping in the thirties. Otterbein came out on top, winning both the Team honors and individual high point rider. Theresa Hubbell, a freshmen pre-vet major, earned the high point rider award with a 70%. The day after the show the Dressage team held a Ride-a-Test Clinic. Riders were able to come in and ride a Dressage test and have a judge give the rider feedback. We attracted 15 riders and everyone had fun and learned something new.

Autumn quarter finished with a trip to the University of Findlay for the second IDA show. One of the two Otterbein teams was awarded the Reserve Championship. Highlights of the show included strong places from Colleen Grant and Lauren Sweezey. With continued hard work the team hopes to qualify once again for the National Championship horse show in April.

**IDA Winter/Spring Schedule, 2010:**
- University of Findlay  
  Saturday, February 20
- University of Kentucky  
  Sunday, February 28
- Otterbein College  
  TBA
- IDA National; Saint Andrews Presbyterian College  
  April 24-25, 2010

Otterbein Dressage Team Nationals 2009
Event Team

Otterbein continues to spend the spring at recognized horse trials throughout the Midwest. Riders have the unique opportunity to ride both their own horses or an Otterbein school horse at USEA competitions. Otterbein’s event team continues to prove to be a big draw for incoming students and we are excited to introduce riders to the wonderful world of eventing. Last spring the team competed at four competitions: Indiana Horse Trials, Gemwood Horse Trials, Spring Bay Horse Trials, and Winona Horse trials. Riders competed from the Beginner Novice level through Intermediate. As the spring event season approaches we are anticipating another great year.

Jocelyn Pierce ’09 Graduate; competing an Otterbein School horse, Ted

OCET Hunt Seat Riders on the Road to the Regional Finals

Otterbein’s Hunt Seat Team is off to a great start this year. Seven riders have already qualified for the Regional Championship horse show, Saturday March 13th. This year Otterbein will have the home team advantage. Finally, after 20+ years of participating in Regionals, we get to ride our own horses!

Congratulations Regional Qualifiers:
Walk, Trot, Canter Division: Polina Krasnovsky, Lauren Pytka
Novice Flat Division: Kelsey Barker, Heather Crather, Catherine Mueller, Tenley Struhs
Novice Fences: Rebecca Gross

IHSA Winter Schedule, 2010:

- University of Findlay IHSA
  University of Findlay
  Sunday, February 14 at 8:00am
- Otterbein IHSA Horse Shows
  Otterbein College
  Saturday, February 27 at 9:00am
- IHSA Zone 6 Region 3 Regional Championship
  Otterbein College
  Saturday, March 13 at 8:00am
- Zone 6 Championship Horse Show
  TBA
  Sunday, April 11 at 8:00am
- ANRC Championships
  Sweet Briar College
  Friday, April 16 at 7:00am

Annie Garrett competing an Otterbein School horse, Rudy

The huntseat team celebrating another great show